



SURVEY on the project
“Widening the European Dialogue in Moldova”

TECHNICAL REPORT

Prepared for the Slovak Atlantic Commission



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1. Background

Independent Sociological and Information Service “OPINIA” carried out a national survey within the framework of the Project “Widening the European Dialogue in Moldova”, coordinated by Professor Elena A. Korosteleva, University of Kent. The survey aimed to measure public knowledge, perceptions and preferences in relation to the EU and its policies.

2. Fieldwork Details

Independent Sociological and Information Service “OPINIA” conducted the survey between October 19 and 7 November 2013. The average length of an interview was 35 minutes.

3. The Universe

The universe of this survey is adult population of the Republic of Moldova aged 18 and over residing in households. The municipality Bender and districts situated on the left side of river Dnestr (Transdnistria) was excluded from the universe due to political situation. An approximate proportion of the excluded population is 13%.

4. Sample Characteristics

Type:	multi-staged, stratified and random sample
Size:	1000 respondents
Age:	18 +
Representation:	sample is representative by nationality, sex, region, age, and education of the population aged 18 + (both urban and rural)
Control Quota:	15%

5. Sample Design

The survey has been conducted on the basis of a multi-staged, stratified and probabilistic sample with random route as the method of selecting households and the ‘first birthday’ approach as the method of selecting respondents within households.

Stratification factors:

- (a) Regional representation of the Republic of Moldova (North, Center and South);
- (b) Residential area: urban/rural;
- (c) Size of urban localities (3 types);
- (d) Size of rural localities (2 types – big and small localities).

For sampling design ISIS “OPINIA” used the data of last Population Census carried out in October 2004 by National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova.

Stage I. Territorial - Administrative Unit

The territory of the Republic of Moldova (except the conflicting region mentioned above) was divided into 4 regions – North, Centre, South and municipality Chisinau (table 1) on the basis of the similarity in social, economic, historical and geographical characteristics within the regions and the difference in these characteristics between the regions.

For municipality of Chisinau there was designed a separate sample.

Table 1

Regions	Administrative districts included in region
Mun. Chisinau	
North	Balti, Briceni, Donduseni, Drochia, Edinet, Falesti, Floresti, Glodeni, Ocnita, Riscani, Singerei, Soroca
Centre	Anenii-Noi, Calarasi, Criuleni, Dubasari*, Hincesti, Ialoveni, Nisporeni, Orhei, Straseni, Soldanesti, Telenesti, Rezina, Ungheni
South	Territorial Autonomy Unit Gagauzia, Basarabasca, Cahul, Cantemir, Causeni, Cimislia, Leova, Stefan-Voda, Taraclia

* Only villages under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Moldova.

Stage II. Residential area: urban/rural

General amount of sampling (1000 respondents) was distributed among regions in proportion with the share of the population aged 18 + in every region, inclusively in urban and rural area according to proportion of population residing in each region (table 2).

Table 2

Region	Share in the total population of 18 + (%)	Share of urban population (%)	Share of rural population (%)	Sample		
				Total	Urban	Rural
Mun. Chisinau	19,8	87,7	12,3	198	174	24
North	29,1	29,3	70,7	291	85	206
Centre	30,7	15,5	84,5	307	48	259
South	20,4	24,0	76,0	204	49	155
TOTAL	100	35,6	64,4	1000	356	644

Stage III. Settlement

The cities and villages were selected by random choice in every stratum from the number of all the inhabited locations included in this strata, the probability was proportional to the population aged 18 years+, inhabiting these locations.

There were used the following strata:

- size of cities (more than 50000, 10000 – 50000, less than 10000)
- size of rural settlements (more than 2000, and below 2000).

Selected settlements represented on the one hand the structure (typology) of the urban and rural settlements of Moldova and, on the other hand, represented each of the regions singled out at the first stage of sampling design. In order to ensure fair representation there were selected 56 localities, including 17 cities and 39 villages (see table 3). The sample size was distributed among the selected localities in proportion with the share of the population aged 18+ years in each.

Table 3 Sample

No of locality	Localities (city, village)	Number of respondents according to the sample		The code of questionnaire	Number of research points
		City	Village		
	Mun. Chisinau	174	24	1-198	23
01	Chishinau	149		1-149	15
02	Vadul lui Vodă	15		150-164	2
03	Cricova	10		165-174	2
04	- Stauceni		13	175-187	2
05	- Goian		11	188-198	2
	North region	85	206	199-489	38
06	Mun. Balti	36		199-234	4
07	Edinet	13		235-247	2
08	- Malcauti (Sorooca)		15	248-262	2
09	- Tirniva (Edinet)		16	263-278	2
10	Donduseni	13		279-291	2
11	- Sireuti (Briceni)		15	292-306	2
12	- Girbova (Ocnita)		17	307-323	2
13	- Corbu (Donduseni)		18	324-341	2
14	- Sturzovca (Glodeni)		16	342-357	2
15	- Limbenii Noi (Glodeni)		12	358-369	2
16	Rascani	11		370-380	2
17	- Nicoreni (Drochia)		17	381-397	2
18	- Popestii de Jos (Drochia)		14	398-411	2
19	- Saptebani (Rascani)		15	412-426	2
20	Sangerei	12		427-438	2
21	- Obreja Noua (Falesti)		18	439-456	2
22	- Ciuciueni (Singerei)		17	457-473	2

No of locality	Localities (city, village)	Number of respondents according to the sample		The code of questionnaire	Number of research points
		City	Village		
23	- Singerei Noi (Singerei)		16	474-489	2
Center region		48	259	490-796	39
24	Rezina	10		490-499	2
25	- Oliscani (Soldanesti)		17	500-516	2
26	- Tareuca (Rezina)		19	517-535	2
27	Ungheni	16		536-551	2
28	- Stolniceni (Ungheni)		18	552-569	2
29	- Pelivan (Orhei)		20	570-589	2
30	Calarasi	12		590-601	2
31	- Pitusca (Calarasi)		21	602-622	3
32	- Temeleuti (Calarasi)		14	623-636	2
33	- Bucovat (Straseni)		19	637-655	2
34	- Capriana (Straseni)		15	656-670	2
35	- Ivancea (Orhei)		18	671-688	2
36	- Suruceni (Ialoveni)		21	689-709	3
37	Anenii Noi	10		710-719	2
38	- Magdacesti (Criuleni)		17	720-736	2
39	- Merenii Noi (Anenii Noi)		19	737-755	2
40	- Lapusna (Hincesti)		23	756-778	3
41	- Ciuciuleni (Hincesti)		18	779-796	2
South Region		49	155	797-1000	27
42	- Sarateni (Leova)		16	797-812	2
43	Cimislia	8		813-820	1
44	- Gotesti (Cantemir)		14	821-834	2
45	Cahul	11		835-845	2
46	- Crihana Veche (Cahul)		18	846-863	2
47	- Larga Noua (Cahul)		13	864-876	2
48	- Sarata Galbena (Cimislia)		17	877-893	2
49	Causeni	14		894-907	2
50	- Coscalia (Causeni)		17	908-924	2
51	- Chircaiesti Causeni)		14	925-938	2
52	- Popeasca (Stefan Voda)		15	939-953	2
TAU Gagauzia		16	31	954-1000	
53	Comrat	9		954-962	1
54	- Chirsova (TAU Gagauzia)		17	963-979	2
55	- Congaz (TAU Gagauzia)		14	980-993	2
56	Vulcanesti	7		994-1000	1
Total per country		356	644	1-1000	127

Stage IV. Sampling Location (Primary Sampling Unit)

Stage 4.1: Administrative divisions (rayons) within settlements

Every selected settlement is divided in administrative divisions (for the rural settlements the administrative or historical local division). Sampling population is divided among administrative sectors by PPS (Probability Proportional to Size).

Stage 4.2 Streets/Routes/PSUs

In each division (sector) a randomly selected necessary number of streets (routes, PSUs) proportionally with population living in these sectors. According to the requirements not more than **10** interviews will be conducted in each sampling point.

Stage V. The selection of households

The Secondary Sampling Unit is a household. Households (HHs) within the selected Census Tracts (CT) were sampled by Random Walk procedure with a statistical step.

- In large urban settlements, the interviewers were given starting points for each route, and the direction in which to move. Following the direction, households were selected by pre-determined step factor, according to the instructions.

- In order to scatter the interviews each village will have 3 starting points, one in the center and the other 2 – in opposite directions. Again, households were selected by applying step factor.

The sample “step” is estimated as “3”.

Selection of starting points within CT was also done at the head office. In urban settlements one address per CTs was randomly selected from the list of addresses of a certain PSU. In rural settlements the procedure is different as there are no address bases available. As mentioned above in rural settlements we have more than one starting points, one in the center and the others in outer parts. For central starting points one of the following are chosen:

1. Local government building
2. Bus station
3. School

This is also done at the head office. Sampling specialists randomly choose one of these three options as a “Central” starting point for each rural PSU (If an interviewer arrives at a rural settlement and it turns out that e.g. there is no school, then sampling specialist gives one of the remaining two options as a starting point). As for the starting point in outer parts of the villages, interviewer was given a number by sampling specialist (e.g. 25) and interviewer counted 25th house from the last house of that village and that is going to be his/her starting point.

Stage VI. The selection of a respondent

In each household only one respondent was interviewed. If in the household were more than one person a18 + years there were used the method of the nearest anniversary. If the respondent were not available at the first visit, interviewers had made three visits in different days and at different times to interview this person. If after three visits, respondent could not be found, interviewer passed to the next household, but was not allowed to interview another person from the same family.

The person interviewed must be:

- 18 years of age or over;
- Citizen of the Republic of Moldova;
- A permanent resident of the household contacted;
- The only household member interviewed;
- Interviewed individually without disturbances or suggestions from anyone else.

6. Method

Direct interview (“face to face”) with selected respondent. The direct interview took place at the respondents’ residence in Romanian or Russian language depending on the choice of the respondents.

7. Quality Control

In accordance with research requirements the fieldwork quality control was carried out at all stages of sociological study. All questionnaires have been checked in OPINIA with respect to whether they were properly completed. As well by the coordinators was verified the correctness of household and respondents’ selection according to the instructions. There were verified all Route Charts / Contact Forms completed by interviewers.

According to research requirements ISIS “OPINIA” verified 15% from the total sample by spot-checking: repeated visits to the respondents or phone calls. By this procedure was verified: fact and date of interview; correctness of respondent selection; age and sex of respondent; theme of interview; length of interview, answers to some questions.

The results of verified interview:

Table 4

Region	No. of back-checking interviews	Total number of interviewers
Chisinau	36	16
Center region	40	18
North region	42	21
South region	34	15
Total:	152	70

All the respondents who were spot-checked confirmed that they were visited by the interviewer. The conclusion of control procedure is that the fieldwork was carried out in compliance with the rules of interviewing and based on the methodology of this study.

8. Major Reasons of Non-Contact

Table 5

	North region	Centre region	mun. Chisinau	South region, including TAU Gagauzia	Total in republic
1. Conducted interviews	291	307	198	204	1000
2. Interrupted interviews	3	1	2	2	8
3. After 3 visits have not found anyone at home	22	28	64	36	150
4. Refusal to open the door / permit to come in	52	37	104	83	276
5. Selected person refused to participate at the interview	7	9	15	11	42
6. Respondent is not home	17	11	34	28	90
7. Selected person is not able to respond	1	2	2	3	8
8. Restricted access to the household	4	0	5	1	10
9. Uninhabited house	19	10	7	14	50

9. Sample Performance

The survey data on demographic chapter was compared with census data conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics in 2004. There are not significant variations when comparing survey data and official statistics by gender, age and nationality.

However there are some deviations on education: population with higher education is slightly over-represented. This is a systematic error related to a higher proportion of refusals among people with lower education.

10. Data Processing

The survey data was processed using the SPSS statistical package. The data was entered by experienced computer operators. OPINIA staff verified the quality of data entry.

11. Arisen difficulties in the course of the survey

During the process of interviewing this survey did not encounter any significant difficulties.